



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/936,210	09/10/2001	Trevor Wright	36-1473	2424

23117 7590 08/10/2006

NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC
901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22203

EXAMINER

CHAI, LONGBIT

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2131

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/936,210

Applicant(s)

WRIGHT ET AL.

Examiner

Longbit Chai

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 6 have been presented for examination. Claims 7 – 10 have been added in an amendment filed 7/19/2006. The amendment filed have been entered and made of record. Presently, pending claims are 1 – 10.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 7/19/2006 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn and, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection has been made – see the following Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farber et al. (U.S. Patent 6,415,280), in view of Messing (U.S. Patent 6,745,327).

Art Unit: 2131

As per claim 1, 4, 5, 7 and 9, Farber teaches a server computer comprising:
means arranged to store one or more computer files (Farber : Column 43 Line 24 – 25);
means arranged to store at least one message digest code (MAC) (Farber :
Column 43 Line 39 – 40). However, Farber does not disclose expressly to store at least
one digital signature. Messing teaches storing at least one digital signature by signing
the document (Messing : Column 7 Line 5 – 16 and Figure 3).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the
invention was made to combine the teaching of Messing within the system of Farber
because Messing teaches a digital signature to ensure the authenticity and integrity of a
digital content (Messing : Column 7 Line 5 – 16 and Figure 3).

Farber in view of Messing teaches:

each computer file having an associated digital signature (Farber : Column 43
Line 24 – 40 & Messing : Column 7 Line 5 – 16 and Figure 3);

means arranged to retrieve said at least one requested computer file (Farber :
Column 43 Line 24 – 40);

means arranged to receive a request from at least one other computer for access
to at least one computer file stores an said server computer (Farber : Column 43 Line
24 – 40: the client request the file);

means arranged to retrieve the digital signature or signatures associated with
said at least one requested computer file (Farber : Column 43 Line 24 – 40 & Messing :
Column 7 Line 5 – 16 and Figure 3);

means arranged to validate the digital signature associated with said at least one requested computer file (Farber : Column 43 Line 24 – 40 & Messing : Column 7 Line 5 – 16 and Figure 3); and

means arranged to deny said other computer access to the or each requested computer file if the digital signature or signatures associated with the or each respective requested computer file is invalid (Farber : Column 43 Line 24 – 40 & Messing : Column 7 Line 5 – 16 and Figure 3).

As per claim 2, Farber as modified teaches means arranged to store a list of approved computer file signing parties; each computer file signing party having at least one associated signing key with which to create digital signatures (Messing : Figure 3 and Column 7 Line 10 – 12); and in which said means arranged to validate the digital signature associated with each requested computer file invalidates said digital signature if said digital signature was created with a signing key not associated with an approved computer file signing party (Farber : Column 43 Line 38 – 40 & Messing : Column 7 Line 5 – 16 and Figure 3).

As per claim 3, Farber as modified teaches said means arranged to validate the digital signature associated with said at least one requested computer file invalidates said digital signature if the current clock date is later than the expiry date associated with the or each computer file (Farber : Column 30 Line 28 – 36 and Column 9 Line 36 / Line 57 – 58 & Messing : Column 7 Line 5 – 16 and Figure 3).

As per claim 6, Farber as modified teaches medium embodying computer readable: Code for loading into a computer and executable by said computer to perform the method according to claim 5 (Farber : Figure 100).

As per claim 8 and 10, Farber as modified teaches at least one digital signature associated at the server computer with a stored file has been created from the file by the server computer using a signing key (Farber : Column 43 Line 38 – 40 & Messing : Column 7 Line 5 – 16 and Figure 3).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Longbit Chai
Examiner
Art Unit 2131



LBC



AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100